UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/446
11 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a press release issued today, 11 June 1997, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea to categorically reject the mendacious allegations made by the National Islamic Front (NIF) regime of the Sudan against my country.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amdemicael KAHSAI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Press release issued on 11 June 1997 by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

The Eritrean Government has been following statements made by several officials in Khartoum through the Sudanese and other mass media, alleging new Eritrean troop deployments along the border with the Sudan.

The Eritrean Government has been accustomed to a barrage of groundless accusations by the ruling National Islamic Front (NIF) regime in the Sudan for more than a year now and categorically rejects those mendacious allegations for what they are. If there is any significance to the new round of allegations, it may only be the fact it betrays an underlying intention to launch an attack against Eritrea. This is indeed demonstrated by the call for a general mobilization being undertaken by the NIF regime along the common borders between the two countries and the provocative threats that Sudanese senior officials have made this week to attack Eritrean cities.

In the event, the Eritrean Government reserves its right of self-defence and warns that the NIF regime alone carries the responsibility for its irresponsible acts.